

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 8-9, 11-13, and 15-16 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter of canceled claim 3. No new matter has been added by way of the above-amendment.

Issues over the Cited References

The following prior art based rejections are pending:

- 1) Claims 9, 11-13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akkapeddi et al. '040 (US 5,621,040); and
- 2) Claims 1, 6, 8-9, 11-13, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belt et al. '451 (US 6,756,451) in combination with Akkapeddi et al. '040.

Applicants respectfully traverse both rejections.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner that Akkapeddi et al. '040 or the combination of Belt et al. '451 with Akkapeddi et al. '040 render the presently claimed invention unpatentable. However, in order to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the subject matter of claim 3, a claim not currently under rejection. As such, both rejections are rendered moot.

Power of Attorney, Revocation and Change of Correspondence Address

Applicants note that the outstanding Office Action was mailed to the previous law firm of Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP. Accordingly, the Patent Office has not yet acknowledged that Applicants have filed a Power of Attorney, Revocation of Power of Attorney and Change of Correspondence Address on September 12, 2006.

As evidence, attached are additional copies of the materials which were filed September 12, 2006.

The PTO is respectfully requested to make the appropriate changes to the Official Record.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq., Reg. No. 43,575, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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